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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Association marocaine pour la promotion de la femme rurale

Special, 2002

Introduction

The association carried out a number of events and projects during the period 2006-2009 in its nine provincial offices and its three sociocultural centres in Temara, Alliyène (Tetouan) and Laayayda (Salé). From a qualitative standpoint, it spent the period widening both its areas of work, through new activities and programmes, and its institutional base, while maintaining a coherent, integrated, sustainable and participatory approach to development.

The association recorded many achievements during that period, including the establishment of its third centre, in Laayayda, in 2007; the strengthening of local associations; and the organization of many awareness-raising and information campaigns on universally recognized values such as women's rights and democracy.

Aims and purposes of the organization

This quadrennial report summarizing the association's main achievements illustrates, with supporting figures, the positive results of those four years — a source of satisfaction and pride, particularly in the areas of human rights and local development. These accomplishments were attributable to the determination of the association's leaders, who are imbued with a culture of hard work, to promote human development, especially that of young girls and women from rural and peri-urban areas, by implementing the programmes and actions outlined below.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

As regards the vocational training through apprenticeship programme, introduced by Act No. 12-00, the three centres provided free training for 1,169 young girls to help them obtain their specialization or qualification certificates in seven handicrafts and two agricultural trades. Of the girls trained, 62 per cent were employed within one year of completing their course. These centres have helped to enhance the network of small and medium-sized enterprises in their regions and to promote self-employment.

The basic literacy programme, comprising 400 hours of instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic, also included 100 class hours of introductory professional training with courses in the students' line of work or in a trade for which they wished to acquire skills, in order to facilitate their integration into the socio-economic environment. A total of 2,988 women and girls followed the programme, with an average attendance rate of 86 per cent; 45 per cent of them have entered the workforce.

Since 30 April 2007, the educational programme on universally recognized values has focused on incorporating courses on democracy and gender into the aforementioned training programme (40 hours) and literacy programme (60 hours),

in partnership with the European Union. This has been accomplished through a campaign to promote the democratic process, in cooperation with an association working in the field of education and development.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

On 14 April 2008, the World Bank selected the Association marocaine pour la promotion de la femme rurale to participate in a panel of possible respondents for its worldwide study on international developments.

The Association was featured on the poster for the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse and received material from the 2008 campaign. It also filled out an application to be considered for the Prize for Prevention of Child Abuse.

It also received a form for a survey on women from the Global Fund for Women, which it only completed and in which it made its opinion known.

2. Centre féminin pour la promotion du développement

Special, 2002

Introduction

Ever since the declaration of the United Nations Decade for Women and Development (1976-1985), the review of progress made during that decade by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (Nairobi, 1985), the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and the five-year review of those recommendations, States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been taking a wide range of initiatives, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to ensure that women's issues are reflected in development actions.

The Centre féminin pour la promotion du développement has also been involved in this process. Although it is a non-profit organization, it works not only with all the other civil society stakeholders (NGOs, associations, local authorities, private sector, etc.), but also with governments, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, regional and subregional organizations, international organizations and foreign financial partners, in the quest to improve the living conditions of its target population, composed of women and young people (girls and boys).

The Centre féminin pour la promotion du développement is a registered non-profit apolitical support and guidance organization in Cameroon.

It was founded in 1993 and legalized in 1999 following a number of social, economic and cultural findings that highlighted the difficulties that its target population faced in its self-promotion and self-management.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the Centre is to promote the social, economic and cultural development of women and young people who have difficulty entering or returning to the labour market by providing training, information, research, guidance and support for endogenous development. Above all, its objective is to assist some development stakeholders, NGOs, associations and local communities (towns) in a comprehensive development effort that includes:

- Various socio-economic studies
- Social and economic projects
- Fund-raising and search for partnerships
- Institutional and organizational support

Significant changes in the organization

The setting up of groups is a prerequisite, as they are the main driving force behind all actions undertaken, particularly in rural areas. When well structured, groups ensure the success and sustainability of any development effort to benefit women and young people, who are part of the organization's target population.

This participatory and community-based approach has brought significant change to the organization.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Following the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the Centre assisted in the drafting of both the national strategy for development of information and communication technologies and its implementation plan.

The Centre is a member of the national committee for WSIS follow-up, under the authority of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, and was behind the establishment of the civil society consortium for follow-up of WSIS outcomes. The World Summit on the Information Society was convened by the United Nations and took place in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005.

The Centre is a member of the coordination unit of the national committee for the preparation of United Nations conferences (within the ambit of the International Telecommunication Union), under the authority of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.

It is also a member of the Ministry's national technical committee for the "Central African Backbone" project, funded by the World Bank.

In 2007, the Centre carried out a study on the involvement of civil society in Central Africa in ICT policies, focusing on Cameroon.

It has set up a distance learning web portal for courses in computer graphics, computer-assisted design and desktop publishing for women, young people and persons with disabilities.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Centre participated in:

(a) The Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Communication and Information Technology, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union, Cairo, 18-20 April 2006;

(b) The workshop on national ICT policies and strategies, regulation and public access organized by ECA in partnership with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Canada and the International Organization of la Francophonie in Douala, Cameroon, 7-9 June 2006;

(c) The inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development — an initiative of the United Nations — in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-20 June 2006;

(d) The inaugural meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, convened by the United Nations, Athens, 30 October-2 November 2006;

(e) The second Internet Governance Forum held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in November 2007 (addressed the plenary on behalf of global civil society);

(f) The ninth, eleventh and twelfth sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and held respectively at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris in November 2006, and at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2008 and 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union and ECA for follow-up to the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Centre has spurred and encouraged the establishment of several grass-roots women's groups and common initiative groups, such as in the city of Bafia, which run training programmes in a number of areas.

It has also assisted in the establishment of the coalition of associations and common initiative groups for rural women in Mbam-et-Inoubou Division, in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (project to strengthen civil society organizations in Cameroon).

In 2007, it helped to set up the coalition of women and girls from the Bafia district, in connection with the grant agreement between the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, the coalition of organizations for the advancement of Cameroonian women and the African Capacity Building Foundation for the funding of a capacity-building project for women's networks in combating poverty in Cameroon.

The Centre supports the Bafia coalition of women and girls in the promotion of their activities relating to the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of their development projects.

The Centre has also established a health cooperative named "Grâce Divine".

3. Comité national d'action pour les droits de l'enfant et de la femme

Special, 1998

Introduction

Le Comité national d'action pour les droits de l'enfant et de la femme is a Cameroonian non-governmental organization that was established on 13 January 1992 and is officially recognized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Its objective is to cooperate with the United Nations in upholding the rights of all children to life, well-being, information and education, and to promote the full and complete integration of women into the development process through action to increase their productivity and income, improve their health, and protect their rights to information and continuing education.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mission is to undertake initiatives contributing to the implementation and monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

In pursuit of these objectives, the Comité national publicizes these two Conventions and subsequent documents throughout the country and at local, national, subregional, regional and international meetings in which it participates. It also tracks all areas of discrimination against women and children, conducting an in-depth investigation into the origins and socio-economic and cultural implications of the phenomenon. It contributes to conflict resolution.

The general assembly of the Comité, its highest body is composed of all active members and elects the members of the executive board, the body that implements the decisions and recommendations of the general assembly.

To date, the Comité has effective representation in several regions and has been enjoying a steady increase in membership.

Significant changes in the organization

Communication difficulties between the Comité, the State and the Government do not facilitate the organization's work.

Contribution to the work of the United Nations

2006

March: The President and founder of the Comité national made a statement at the fiftieth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, asking the Group of Seven, the Group of Eight and the friends of Africa and Cameroon to cancel unconditionally the debts of the poor countries, Africa and Cameroon.

Following the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the Comité national participated in the subregional workshop on the role of civil society in the implementation of the Durban Programme of Action.

29-30 June: The Comité national was invited to attend the Civil Society Forum on Employment and Decent Work, held in Geneva. The Comité national was also invited to participate in the debates of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

2007

9 September: The Comité national participated in a regional workshop on HIV/AIDS and nutrition, organized by the Cameroon office of the World Food Programme.

2008

17-18 September: The Comité national was invited to the Africa Regional Preparatory Workshop for the 48th session of the International Conference on Education.

2009

The Comité organized a panel discussion on the handling of international disputes involving child trafficking.

15 July: The Comité participated in African Women's Day activities.

10-12 August: The Comité organized activities to raise awareness and mobilize NGOs and civil society to participate in the 62nd Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City, 9-11 September 2009.

28 September-1 October: The Comité was invited by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the seminar on drafting national action plans to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Comité advocates for compliance with the United Nations conventions concerning children and women and other human rights conventions in a highly diplomatic manner so as to avoid any conflict with the administration, the target population and others.

Additional information

The President of the Comité attended a participatory diagnosis workshop as part of the project for the formulation of an agricultural mechanization strategy in Cameroon.

The Comité is very interested in this project, because women feed the nation through their subsistence farming. It therefore hopes that women will be able to acquire appropriate farm machinery.